GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:690
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
SHORTAGE OF FUEL IN NUCLEAR POWER UNITS
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear power units in the country are facing an acute shortage of fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the regular supply of fuel to the power units?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Out of 17 reactors in operation, 15 reactors are Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) which use natural uranium. There is currently a mismatch in demand and supply of natural uranium.

(b) As a result of this mismatch, the PHWRs are currently operated at reduced capacity.

(c) Government has taken steps to augment natural uranium supply by opening new mines and augmenting processing facilities. With the commencement of operations at the new uranium processing mill at Turamdih, availability of uranium is expected to improve progressively.